

find ourselves in a situation like that of a small town in New England in 1972, when . . .

Compare your solutions with those of your classmates.

For practice using the paraphrasing methods described above, paraphrase the following six sentences so that they form a paragraph or two. All of these sentences come from the article describing Charles Berlin's hazardous waste incinerator and Verna Courtemanche's fight to force the government to close the plant. Some of the vocabulary is quite difficult. Be sure you understand the meaning of the original sentences before you try to paraphrase them. Begin your paragraph with this sentence:

Living in the vicinity of Berlin's dump site soon became intolerable.

Continue by altering the words and sentence structures of the original to form a coherent paragraph:

1. The corrosive fumes turned convertible car tops into rags, reddened children's faces with rash, and swelled their eyes shut.
2. Citizens living near the incinerator and its foul lagoons saw the value of their homes crash and believe that their health is threatened.
3. Verna Courtemanche . . . led a decade-long fight to get federal and state government to intervene and begin a cleanup.
4. Verna and friends harried state officials by phone, rally, and letter for four years before Berlin's noxious dump site was permanently closed.
5. The owner of the facility, when faced with legal action, abandoned the site and declared bankruptcy.
6. Illegally buried containers unearthed by cleanup crews

## Chapter 10 Summarizing, Paraphrasing, and Quoting Sources ➤ 199

near the incinerator held a witches' brew of cyanide, pesticides, acids, and PCBs.

Sometimes the original may contain a nontechnical expression that you find particularly striking. In that case, you do not need to change that special expression, but put quotation marks around it to show that you are using exactly the same words as the original. In the preceding exercise, for example, what words did you use to express the idea of "a witches' brew" in sentence 6? \_\_\_\_\_

If you found the expression striking, you might leave it as it is. In that case, paraphrase the rest of the sentence and put quotation marks around the expression you are retaining from the original.

### EXERCISE 4: PARAPHRASING

Rewrite sentence 6 here, retaining the expression "a witches' brew."

6. \_\_\_\_\_